



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

280 Madison Avenue North
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110-1812

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are biologically-based brain disorders that disrupt the way a person thinks, feels and functions, which can result in the inability to cope with the ordinary demands of life; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses can affect anyone, regardless of race, age or income; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are treatable; by identifying and caring for mental illnesses properly and ensuring that individuals receive the best possible care, everyone benefits, including Kitsap County families and communities; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1979, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has been dedicated to the eradication of mental illness and to the improvement of the quality of life for those who are afflicted with these conditions. NAMI provides support, education and advocacy through their website, hotline, educational programs and support groups; and

WHEREAS, many people who suffer from mental illness resist treatment because they believe it is not serious, or that it is a personal weakness rather than a serious medical condition. Fortunately, NAMI Kitsap County has partnered with the state as well as various local agencies, professionals, employers and family members to decrease the stigma of mental illness, increase public awareness and enhance services; and

WHEREAS, complete recovery requires action, understanding and teamwork and is possible due to improved research, increased community support and reduced stigma; however, significant barriers still exist, such as shame and insufficient insurance, and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the United States Congress established the first week in October as Mental Illness Awareness Week, in recognition of NAMI's efforts to raise awareness of mental illness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christopher Snow, Mayor of the City of Bainbridge Island, do hereby proclaim the week of October 4 - 10, 2009 as

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

on Bainbridge Island, and encourage our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to participate in statewide efforts to increase access to much-needed services for members of our community who suffer from mental illness.

SIGNED this 23rd day of September, 2009

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Snow".

Christopher Snow, Mayor